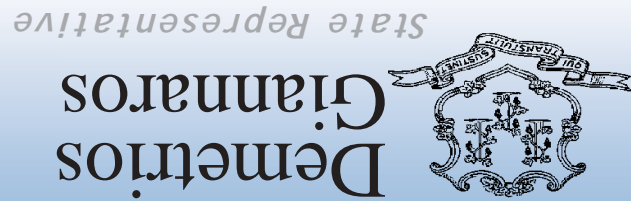


PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
HARTFORD, CT  
Permit No. 3937

**Please Keep in Touch**  
Capitol: 860-240-8585  
demetrios.giannaros@po.state.ct.us  
www.cga.state.ct.us



21st District

Capitol News  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3100  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591



## BALANCED BUDGET: What Does it Mean for You?



- **No new taxes!**
- **We reduced taxes in 2005 by reinstating the \$500 maximum Property Tax Credit. This reduces your income taxes.**
- **We kept spending at \$136.3 million below the State's spending cap.**
- **The Sales Tax Free Week for clothing and footwear costing less than \$300 has been reinstated for the third week of August 2004.**
- **We eliminated co-pays and premiums for HUSKY and Medicaid programs.**

**Demetrios Giannaros . . . Your State Representative**



Capitol News

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**DEMETRIOS  
GIANNAROS**  
21<sup>st</sup> District - Farmington 2004

Dear Friends:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you and our beautiful town in Hartford. It is an honor and a privilege serving Farmington as your State Representative.



Representing you at the Capitol, I spearheaded many initiatives for the benefit of both Farmington and the State of Connecticut. I worked hard to improve our state's ethics laws, education, open space, the environment, health care, our business climate and to protect our seniors.

This past session was particularly challenging for us due to the controversy surrounding the Governor. However, we succeeded in ensuring this critical issue was handled in a nonpartisan fashion and did not impede the legislative process.

I enjoy hearing from you regarding your interests and concerns. Your suggestions are helpful in my efforts and I encourage you to stay in touch.

Best Wishes,

*Demetrios*

Demetrios Giannaros  
State Representative

## \$\$ State Grants to Farmington Increase \$\$

This year we were able to increase state aid to municipalities. Farmington has fared well with an increase in state grants of \$357,048 for 2004-05, including an increase of \$156,604 in our Education Cost Share grants. These grants help us reduce the property tax burden.



Below see the allocated state aid to Farmington and other Farmington Valley Towns.

### Total State Grants to Local Towns

	Fiscal Year 2003-04	Fiscal Year 2004-05
Farmington	\$5,056,693	\$5,413,741
Burlington	\$4,293,308	\$4,390,690
Simsbury	\$3,190,819	\$3,592,521
Canton	\$2,676,794	\$2,856,885
Avon	\$1,319,059	\$1,491,794

Source: Office of Fiscal Analysis, CT General Assembly 6/9/04



# SENIORS

## Helping Connecticut’s Seniors

We remembered our seniors by restoring \$1.25 million to the ConnPACE prescription drug program for senior and disabled residents.



Rep. Giannaros honors veterans on Memorial Day as keynote speaker.

## ConnPACE Estate Recovery and Asset Test

I co-sponsored legislation that repealed the 2003 law in which the state could have recouped ConnPACE benefits from the estates of deceased participants. We also repealed the law that set an asset limit for ConnPACE participation. This law was never implemented and I voted against this law originally. (PA 04-258)



Rep. Giannaros hosts students at the Capitol.

# ETHICS REFORMS

Strengthening Connecticut’s ethics laws was a major priority of mine during this past session and I proposed and co-sponsored a number of bills to change our state ethics laws. Even though more work needs to be done, we accomplished the following changes to the State Code of Ethics:

- We made the Ethics Commission budget process independent of the Governor’s Budget Office. This protects the commission from undue pressure and provides sufficient resources for their needs.
- We increased the statute of limitations for filing complaints of ethics violations from 3 to 5 years.
- We increased the maximum civil penalty for ethics code violations from \$2,000 to \$10,000.
- We doubled the time, from 90 to 180 days, for the state to bring action to void a contract entered into that was in violation of the ethics code.
- We raised the penalty and criminal classification for intentional ethics code violations from a class A misdemeanor, which is punishable by up to one year in prison, a \$2,000 fine or both, to a class D felony which is punishable by up to five years in prison, a \$5,000 fine or both. (PA 04-245)

# EDUCATION

## Preparing Pre-School Children for Success

Preparing our three and four year olds for elementary school is a vital step in eliminating the achievement gap. Improving School Readiness programs has always been one of my highest priorities. This session I co-sponsored bills which increased the slots for early childhood education programs. We also strengthened the minimum qualifications required of school readiness teachers. (PA 04-215) (PA 04-15)

## Protecting our Children

A new act passed that makes it a second-or-fourth-degree sexual assault for adults to have sexual contact with a person who is under the age of 18 who participates in a program or activity if the adult’s professional, legal, occupational, or volunteer status gives him power, authority, or supervision over the minor. The act covers violators age 20 or older. (PA 04-130)

## Strengthening International Education in our Schools

We authorized the State Board of Education to recognize international education and sister-school partnership programs. (PA 04-153)

# ENVIRONMENT

## Protecting Connecticut’s Open Space

In an effort to entice water companies to preserve more open space, I co-sponsored legislation regarding the sale of water company lands. The Commissioner of Public Health now has the power to protect a drinking water reservoir from abandonment if it is determined that the water source may be needed to meet the future water supply needs of the state. (PA 04-200)



Ribbon cutting ceremony for Hill-Stead Museum’s walking trails

## Reducing Greenhouse Gases

In an effort to improve our environment, the General Assembly has passed legislation that addresses escalating greenhouse gas emissions. These harmful gases are *to be reduced to year 1990 levels by January 1, 2010* and 10% below 1990 levels by 2020. This act requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to report annually on progress in achieving the goals. (PA 04-252, Co-sponsor)

## Improving Our State’s Air Quality

The General Assembly continues to make progress in improving our state’s air quality. Beginning with model year 2008, an automobile manufacturer’s fleet must meet stricter average emissions standards. Ten percent of a manufacturer’s fleet must be comprised of zero-emission vehicles or their equivalent. The new law also establishes additional evaporative emissions controls on vehicles’ fuel tanks and exhaust systems.

Harmful emissions could be reduced by as much as one-third. With the passage of this landmark legislation, Connecticut is taking a significant step toward cleaner air and the promotion of alternative fuel vehicles.

(PA 04-84, Co-sponsor)



# FARMINGTON BRIEFS

## State Land Conveyed to Farmington for Open Space

As one of the original co-sponsors of the state open space grants from which Farmington has benefitted significantly, I am happy to report that I was successful this session in transferring (conveyance of) approximately five acres of state land (Shady Lane) to the Town of Farmington for use as open space. This is in addition to the 39 acres of state land I helped secure earlier. (PA 04-186)

## State Grant to Hill-Stead Museum

I am pleased to report a \$30,000 grant-in-aid for the Hill-Stead Museum. The General Assembly authorized these funds through the Historic Restoration Fund of the Connecticut Commission on the Arts, Tourism, Culture, History and Film.



## State Aid to Barney Library

Renovations to the Barney Library, in the center of Farmington, can soon be a reality thanks to a turnaround in the state’s economy which has allowed us to set aside monies for such projects. In negotiations with Speaker of the House Moira Lyons and Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, Marc Ryan, I was able to have money earmarked for renovations and updating of our Barney Library.

Demetrios Giannaros . . . Your State Representative